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Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number appearing below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 11, 2002

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-19 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) Offset paper for offset printing wherein **[which is characterized in that]** a coating layer **[containing]**comprising an inorganic surface preparation agent **[mainly]** comprising silica sol or colloidal silica is provided on base paper for offset printing. **[(Embodiments 1 to 3)]**

2. (Amended) The offset paper **[as claimed in]**of Claim 1, **[which is characterized in that]**wherein the inorganic preparation agent **[contains]**comprises an inorganic pigment. **[(Embodiment 4)]**

3. (Amended) The offset paper **[as claimed in]**of Claim 2, **[which is characterized in that, in the inorganic surface preparation agent, an addition]** wherein the ratio of the inorganic pigment to the inorganic surface preparation agent is 5 to 50wt.%. **[(Embodiments 1 to 4)]**

4. (Amended) The offset paper **[as claimed in]**of Claim 2 **[or Claim 3]**, **[which is characterized in that]**wherein the inorganic pigment is selected from the group consisting of titanium oxide, calcium carbonate **[or]**and white carbon. **[(Embodiment 5 and 6)]**

5. (Amended) The offset paper **[as claimed in any one]** of Claim[s] 2 **[to 4]**, **[which is characterized in that]**wherein the inorganic surface preparation agent **[contains]**further comprises a surface-sizing agent. **[(Embodiment 7)]**

6. (Amended) The offset paper **[as claimed in]**of Claim 5, **[which is characterized in that a weight]**wherein the ratio of the surface-sizing agent **[in the inorganic surface preparation agent]**to the colloidal silica or silica sol is 5 to 30wt.% **[to colloidal silica or silica sol]**. **[(Embodiment 7)]**

7. (Amended) The offset paper **[as claimed in]**of Claim 6, **[which is characterized in that]**wherein the surface-sizing agent is selected from the group consisting of styrene-acrylic acid copolymer, alkyd resin, styrene-maleic acid copolymer **[or]**and olein-maleic acid copolymer. **[(Embodiments 8 to 10)]**

8. (Amended) The offset paper **[as claimed in]**of Claim[s] 5 **[to 7]**, **[which is characterized in that]**wherein the inorganic surface preparation agent **[contains]**comprises 5 to

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40 parts by weight of titanium oxide to 100 parts by weight of the colloidal silica or silica sol.  
 [(Embodiment 11)]

9. (Amended) The offset paper [as claimed in any one] of Claim[s] 2 [to 8], [which is characterized in that]wherein the inorganic surface preparation agent [contains]comprises an organic binder. [(Embodiment 12)]

10. (Amended) The offset paper [as claimed in]of Claim 1, [which is characterized in that]wherein the inorganic surface preparation agent [contains]comprises an inorganic salt. [(Embodiment 13)]

11. (Amended) The offset paper [as claimed in]of Claim 10, [which is characterized in that]wherein the inorganic salt is sodium sulfate or sodium nitrate. [(Embodiments 13 to 15)]

12. (Amended) The offset paper [as claimed in]of Claim [11]10, [which is characterized in that]wherein [an]the addition ratio of the inorganic salt is 5 to 250 parts by weight to 100 parts by weight of the colloidal silica or silica sol. [(Embodiments 10 to 12)]

13. (Amended) The offset paper [as claimed in]of Claim 10, [which is characterized in that]further comprising a surface-sizing agent[ is contained]. [(Embodiment 16)]

14. (Amended) The offset paper [as claimed in]of Claim 13, [which is characterized in that]wherein the surface-sizing agent is selected from the group consisting of styrene-acrylic acid copolymer, alkyd resin, styrene-maleic acid, [or]and olefin-maleic acid. [(Embodiments 16 to 20)]

15. (Amended) The offset paper [as claimed in]of Claim 10, [which is characterized in that]further comprising an organic binder[ is contained]. [(Embodiments 23 and 24)]

16. (Amended) The offset paper [as claimed in]of Claim 15, [which is characterized in that]wherein the organic binder is oxidized starch or cationic polyacrylamide. [(Embodiments 21 and 22)]

17. (Amended) The offset paper [as claimed in]of Claim 10, [which is characterized in that]further comprising an organic binder and a surface-sizing agent[ are contained]. [(Embodiment 15)]

18. (Amended) The offset paper [as claimed in any one] of Claim[s]10 [to 17], [which is characterized in that]wherein the inorganic surface preparation agent [contains]comprises an organic binder, a surface-sizing agent and titanium oxide; and wherein [that a]the ratio of the

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titanium oxide is 5 to 40 parts by weight to 100 parts by weight of the solid content of the colloidal silica or silica sol. [(Embodiments 2 to 6)]

19. (Amended) [Newsprint]The offset paper [for offset printing as claimed in]of Claim[s] 1 [to 18], [which is]wherein the base paper for offset printing is a newsprint paper having basis weight [within the limits of]from about 37 g/m<sup>2</sup> to about 45 g/m<sup>2</sup>.